

FDD-PST

From: Carol Starnes [cstarnes@coweta.k12.ga.us]
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2000 10:45 AM
To: 'fdd-pst@fns.usda.gov'
Subject: comments RE BPR

After reviewing the proposed changes to the Food Distribution Program and realizing that only a few of the School Food Authorities throughout the nation have had input, I feel that I should share with USDA my concerns with many of the 16 proposed changes.

1. Expand use of long term-contracts

Since it appears that a long term contract for cheese has been fairly successful, this idea might be feasible, but I don't believe vendors should have the responsibility of storing the product. If they store it for us, we will have to pay them, and my district cannot afford to do this.

2. Test best-value contracting

I don't understand how commercial packaging will make vendors more responsible for product liability.

3. Update product specifications

Updating pack size to industry standard could be helpful, but more details of the changes to update product specs are needed.

4. Allow vendors to use commercial labels

This is NOT necessary. It will just cause confusion. No one sees the packages except the employees in the kitchen. It would be a nightmare for accountability.

5. Move toward national umbrella contracts with processors.
no comment

6. Expand full substitutability of commodity product.

I am against this change because it could cause more recalls and holds. The problem with the strawberries a few years ago is a good example--for months our students would not eat strawberries and we didn't even receive any!

7. Work with states to test the seamless commodity distribution concept.

Since we have several suppliers now, how would this work? There seems to be too many questions about this to understand the impact it will make.

8. Facilitate the processing of commodities with limited demand
Good idea

9. Develop written hold and recall procedures.
Good idea

10. Reduce the duration of product holds at the school level.
Good idea

11. Publish commodity recall reimbursement procedures
Good idea

12. Provide computer connectivity to the school district level
This idea sounds like it would be good, BUT how could all of the school

systems in the USA possibly have access available and it be maintained?
It

seems that the state agency could handle the communication so much better.

We have good support from our state who keep us well informed in a timely and organized manner.

13. Provide a single USDA point of contact
no comment --unclear

14. Work with states and partners to pilot-test improvements
What are the pilots and how were they selected? It seems there should be pilots from every state or section of the country since there seems to be varying opinion on the need for change.

15. Other Improvements
Relaxing truckloads is a good idea.

16. Streamline paperwork and reporting requirements
I always like the idea of cutting paperwork, but will this actually be the case?

Please consider that all the comments you receive be tabulated and published for all SFA to read.
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